

REMARKS

An Office Action was mailed on October 14, 2004.

By the foregoing claims 6, 9, and 10 are cancelled, claims 5 and 7 are amended, and the remaining claims are amended at least to change European reference practice to customary practice before the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office.

A substitute specification is enclosed. Drawing Figs. 1 and 4 are enclosed.

Drawing Fig. 1 is objected. A Replacement Sheet labeling the figure as Prior Art is enclosed. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the objection.

The drawings are further objected to for not showing every feature of the invention claimed.

With regard to claim 2, Applicant respectfully submits new drawing Fig. 4, which is in every detail, except for the bellows being claimed in claim 2, alike to Fig. 2. No new matter is added. Support for the new drawing may be found at least in Fig. 2, the specification as filed at page 4, lines 6-7, and the specification as filed as a whole.

A substitute specification incorporating Fig. 4 is enclosed. No new matter is added.

With regard to claim 7, encasing element 13 is shown in Figs. 2 and 3 as being braced by tie bars 4 between end plate 3 and the movable mold-clamping plate 2 by means of crosspieces 17 are supported on tie bars 4. Applicant respectfully submits that the drawing figures do indeed show the elements being claimed. However, to more expeditiously pass the application to allowance, applicant has amended claim 7 to read that the encasing element is now braced by the tie bars as opposed to being braced on the tie bars.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the drawing objections be withdrawn.

Claims 1-5, 7, and 8 are now pending, of which claim 1 is the sole independent claim and which is allowed. Besides claim 1, claims 2-3, 7 and 8 are allowed. The applicant expresses his gratitude to the Examiner for the allowance. The remaining claim, namely claim 5, stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite but would be allowable if

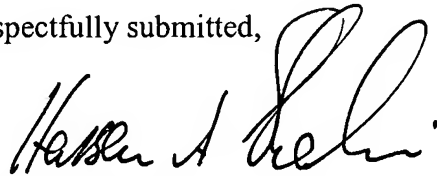
rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection. Applicant has amended the claim. A lower portion of the encasing element is disposed above collecting trough 18 as shown in Fig. 2 and fully described in the specification as filed on page 8, last paragraph. Accordingly the Examiner is kindly requested to withdraw the rejection.

In view of the remarks set forth above, applicant believes the application and all pending claims therein are in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. All dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons provided for the allowability of the independent claim from which they depend.

However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Charge any fee due with this paper to Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Enclosed is replacement sheet Fig. 1 and new drawing Fig. 4.